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Wimborne Minster Urban District

Annual Report

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1944

R. J. MAULE HORNE

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Acting M.O.H.



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WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health 1944

(abbreviated)

1. Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer (part time). Dr. R. J. Maule Horne (vice Dr. E. H. Markby on active service).

Sanitary Inspector, combined with Office of Surveyor—
C. W. Prance (deceased). H. Fenton, M.I.MC.E.,
M.R.S.I.

2. Statistics.

	1944.
Area (in acres)	653
Registrar General's estimate of Population as at 30th June	3975
Number of Inhabited houses (from Rate Book)	1327
Rateable Value	£31,280
Sum represented by one penny rate	£122

Social Conditions. The presence of official evacuees and a fluctuating number of temporary Service residents have influenced to some extent the industries and the extent of unemployment.

At the commencement of 1944 there were 63 adult and child evacuees in the Town. By December the number was 69, but from July to September, when V-bombs developed, there was a temporary increase to 203.

Vital Statistics.

			1944	
			M.	F.
Live Births (legitimate)	...	...	22	25
Live Births (illegitimate)	...	...	6	3
Still Births	...	...	—	1
Birthrate per 1,000 population	...	...	14.1	
Still birth rate per 1,000 births	...	...	17.8	
Deaths	...	...	33	28
Crude Death Rate	...	...	15.34	
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	11.81	
Deaths from Puerperal causes	...	...	—	
Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	2	2
Death rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	71.4	
Legitimate Infant Death rate	...	...	71.4	
Illegitimate Infant Death rate	...	...	—	
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	9	4
Measles	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
Diarhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	—	—

3. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

- (a) *Laboratory facilities.* The Dorset County Laboratories, at Glyde Path, Dorchester, with branch Laboratory at the Municipal Buildings, Poole, afford a comprehensive and up-to-date service.
- (b) *Ambulance facilities.* For general purposes and accidents the Council maintain a 23 h.p. Bedford Ambulance, with capacity of 2 lying and 4 sitting cases, or 3 lying cases.

For Infectious Diseases, ambulance conveyance is provided by the Borough of Poole, the contracting authority for the hospitalisation of infectious illness, where called for.

Disinfection of premises, bedding, etc., is also carried out by contract with the Borough of Poole.

- (e) *Clinics and Treatment Centres* (under the authority of the Dorset County Council):—

Child Welfare Clinic. Held on alternate Tuesday afternoons at the Women's Institute, Leigh Road.

School Clinic, including Scabies. By arrangement with the Civil Defence Authority, the services of a trained nurse are available each School morning at the First Aid Post, Allendale.

Orthopaedic Clinic, held monthly on Wednesdays, at the Women's Institute, Leigh Road,

Ear, nose and throat. School children found to require operative treatment for unhealthy tonsils or adenoids, receive this at the Cornelia and East Dorset Hospital, Poole.

Defective Eyesight amongst School children is examined periodically, and, if necessary, spectacles are provided.

School Dental Service. Schools are visited periodically by the travelling Dental Clinic of the County Education Authority.

Tuberculosis. The County Tuberculosis Clinic is open on Mondays and Thursdays at King Street, Poole, with a centre for radiography, artificial pneumothorax, and other aspects of control and Treatment at the County Home, Nirvana, Commercial Road, Parkstone.

Venereal Diseases. Dorset County Clinic is held at Cornelia Hospital, Poole, on Tuesdays and Fridays, and at Boscombe Hospital, Shelley Road, Boscombe, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with separate hours for men and women.

Hospitals : General and Maternity. Wimborne has its own " Cottage " Hospital with accommodation for 34 patients.

Cornelia Hospital, Poole, and the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Boscombe, both afford full general and maternity facilities, and Allen House, a County Welfare Institution, has 49 beds, as well as 4 maternity beds and Labour Ward.

Infectious Diseases. The district has a contract with the Borough of Poole for the treatment of suitable cases at the Borough Isolation Hospital, Alderney, Newtown, Poole.

Smallpox incidence is provided for by the County Council at the Isolation Hospital of the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District.

4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(See Report by Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.)

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

				1944.	
				M.	F.
Measles	...	...	...	27	29
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	3	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	5	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	—	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1	1
Total				37	41

Protection against Diphtheria.

The total numbers protected to the end of 1944 have been as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	1—4 years	5—15 years	<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
up to 1940	33	3	7	—
1941	36	43	3	—
1942	143	244	1	—
1943	79	71	—	—
1944	14	7	—	—

Prior to 1943 the numbers were all inclusive. For 1943 and 1944 the figures refer to actual residents in the Urban District. The earlier figures, for instance, included Grammar School children, the majority of whom live outside the District. They also included temporary evacuee residents, whose numbers gradually fell away during 1943 and 1944 to a negligible total.

A close investigation of the records, to exclude those now over 15 years, and based on the Registrar General's estimate of an age group (1 to 4 years) population of 311 and a 5 to 14 years group of 599, give a protected rate of well over 90 per cent. for the permanent population.

A "comb-out" of the schools, especially the infant and junior schools, in the early months of 1945, increased the number protected by 5 under 5 years and 34 over 5 years.

Tuberculosis: New cases and Mortality.

1944									
Age	New Cases					Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
Under 1 ...	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—
1 and under 5 ...	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—
5 and under 15 ...	—	—	1	1		—	—	—	—
15 and under 25 ...	1	1	—	—		—	—	—	—
25 and under 35 ...	—	—	—	1		—	—	—	—
35 and under 45 ..	1	—	—	—		—	—	—	—
45 and under 55 ...	2	1	—	—		1	—	—	—
55 and under 65 ...	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	2	1	2		1	—	—	—

8. Local and Adopted Acts. No change.

Causes of Death.

Code						1944	
No.	Cause.					M.	F.
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	—	1
9	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—
13	Cancer of buccal cavities and oesophagus	...	...	...	...	1	—
	Cancer of uterus	...	...	...	...	—	3
14	Cancer of stomach	...	...	...	...	1	—
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	—	1
16	Cancer, all other Sites	...	...	...	...	7	—
18	Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	2	5
19	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	3	4
20	Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	3	1
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1
27	Other digestive disorders	...	...	...	...	—	2
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	—	1
31	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1	1
32	Other congenital conditions	...	...	...	...	1	1
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
34	Road Traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	2	—
36	All other causes	...	...	...	...	9	6
						33	28

REPORT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

There were no extensions of public water supplies, and no sewerage undertakings during the period under review. Two new water flushing closets were installed in 1944, making a total of 338, while the number of pail closets in use was 1,093.

There are 5 Registered Dairy premises regularly inspected, considerable improvement made at one; no slaughter houses or pigstyes.

Inspections under the Food and Drugs Acts were 105 in 1944.